

# FOCAL POINT

## 'Just Two Nights a Month'

Often times, that's how a new candidate for elected office will answer his or her spouse when asked what type of time commitment will it take to serve our city. Technically, that is correct. Your City Council meets every first and third Tuesday of the month at the George A. Purefoy Municipal Center.



MAYOR'S MESSAGE

**MAYOR MAHER MASO**

What are not listed are the many "not regularly scheduled" meetings. Some weeks, we meet nearly every weekday evening, depending what is on our agenda. For example, during board appointments, it is not uncommon to meet three evenings in a row to interview candidates for city board positions.

Of course, besides all the meetings, your City Council will attend civic events in our community. Whether it is a ribbon cutting or a fundraiser for a 501c3, it is important for your elected officials to get to know the community they serve. By being accessible to the residents of Frisco, your elected officials are easy to talk to and are always willing to listen to your concerns, whether you're an adult or youth. It seems not a week goes by where we are not meeting with a troop from the Boy Scouts or reading a book to an elementary class. It is amazing what you learn from the youth of our community.

Several times a year, multi-day events take place where your elected official leaves their families and businesses to represent our city. There is the annual three-day work session and mid-year one-day work session where your council members focus on the long-term vision of our community. Many of the large-scale projects you see in Frisco today were born from these work sessions.

Another commitment we make, as your elected representatives, is to be your

See **MAYOR**, page 2

## New year, new options at Frisco Athletic Center

*Discounts offered to founding members and annual members meeting renewal deadline*

Christmas lights hung – check. Presents wrapped – check. New Year's resolutions made – still working on it.

As you delight in the food and fun of the holiday season, visions of a 2010 to-do list will likely begin dancing in your head. A goal for many come January 1 is getting into shape. Resolving to drop pounds and get healthy starts with the best intentions. Sticking with the commitment can be a challenge without the right tools.

The Frisco Athletic Center (FAC) is a powerful resource to help you develop and keep a fitness routine. The largest municipally-run fitness center in North Texas is open seven days a week, for more than 100 hours per week. In 2010 there are even more options to make an FAC membership a great investment in your health.

The Frisco Athletic Center staff listened to requests from many members for more flexible hours on Saturdays. Effective January 2, 2010 the FAC will be open earlier on Saturdays, from 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. During summer (Memorial Day holiday weekend thru Labor Day) Saturday hours will be from 6:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

In the New Year, the Frisco Athletic Center will also continue its commitment to offer a quality fitness experience with high-level customer service at an affordable price. Plus, in 2010 the FAC will introduce a new membership option.

"In addition to annual, monthly and daily passes, we've added a four-month pass," said Steve Walsh,



The Frisco Athletic Center has approximately 60 group exercise classes to choose from each week. Many of those classes are included in the cost of membership. A complete list of fitness classes and a detailed look at membership options is available online at [FriscoFun.org/fac](http://FriscoFun.org/fac).

Recreation Facilities Manager for the Parks & Recreation Department. "It's one more way to offer flexible payment options to residents, and none of our other membership types will increase in price in 2010." In fact, the Frisco Athletic Center has not increased membership rates since the facility opened in October 2007.

The new, four-month pass comes with a financial savings over a month-to-month membership. Those purchasing a four-month family membership for \$230 will save \$10 dollars off the month-to-month rate for the same time period. Individuals will pay \$135 for the four-month pass, a savings of \$5 off the month-to-month rate.



*See Page 7 for Holiday Event Info*  
*[FriscoMerryMainStreet.com](http://FriscoMerryMainStreet.com)*

Members who prefer to pay month-to-month can continue to do so in 2010. Beginning January 2, the FAC will offer automatic credit card draft for the first time. The new, automatic draft means you can sign up once, and the FAC will automatically charge your credit card to renew your account saving the hassle of waiting in line to pay every month.

The cost of an annual family membership remains \$600, but there is an incentive for families who are current members. Any annual members who renew their family membership by its expiration date will receive a five percent discount. That discounted fee is \$570.

The savings is even greater for founding members of the Frisco

Athletic Center. Founding members who renew their annual, family membership by December 31 will receive a 10 percent discount, bringing the annual membership fee down to \$540.

The rate for a day-pass remains the same: \$8 for adults and \$6 for youth ages 2 to 17. A complete list of membership costs is available online at [FriscoFun.org/fac](http://FriscoFun.org/fac).

"The city recognizes residents are investing in their health," said Walsh. "Working out regularly can be a good way to help manage the stress many are feeling from tough economic times at home or at work."

See Center, next page



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## Frisco to break ground on public parking garage Nov. 30

Beginning Monday, November 30, the parking lot behind City Hall and the Library will be closed to make way for the construction of a 574 space, public parking garage. Two, small surface lots will also be constructed with one on the east side, the other on the west side of the garage for a total of 70 additional parking spaces.

On November 3, during a regularly scheduled council meeting, the Frisco City Council voted unanimously to approve the contract to begin construction on the \$6.4 million public parking garage. Four million of those funds were approved by voters during the 2006 Bond Election. Construction is estimated to take one year to complete.

"When construction is finished, we'll all benefit from the convenience of having a total of 644 parking spaces to choose from whether we're attending meetings, using the library or visiting the many businesses, restaurants, venues or special events in and around Frisco Square," said Mayor Maher Maso. "The 644 new parking opportunities far outnumber the 141 spaces we currently have available in the parking lot behind City Hall."

The drive way and half-circle drive directly behind City Hall/Library will remain open, providing public access to the 'after hours drop boxes' for utility payments and library books. The 'loading zone' space will be accessible, allowing for loading and deliveries, only. Eight handicap spaces will be available in front of City Hall. This includes four

existing spaces and four additional spaces, which replace those lost to parking garage construction. Anyone with a handicap placard may use handicap parking, first come, first served.

Visitor parking includes angled spaces on Frisco Square Blvd., which includes spaces in front of City Hall and around Simpson Plaza. Most spaces on Church and Library Streets will also be available for visitor parking. For safety reasons, parking is prohibited in some spaces on Church and Library Streets, adjacent to the garage construction site. Parking on Page Street, between Church and Library Streets, is prohibited.

Visitor parking is also available in the west parking lot of Frisco Square. This parking lot is located west of one of the Frisco Square business/residential buildings on Coleman Blvd. This lot is accessible from Main Street. For your convenience, the City of Frisco has installed a temporary sidewalk leading from the Frisco Square west lot, through Simpson Plaza and to the front of City Hall.

"We appreciate your patience as we work to improve parking availability in this area," said Mayor Maso. "When construction is finished, we'll all appreciate the fact we'll have four times more parking than we currently have at City Hall and the Library." To see the visitor parking plan maps, go to [www.friscotexas.gov/garage](http://www.friscotexas.gov/garage)

and Association of Mayors and Commissioners Court meetings. This month was the annual National League of Cities Conference (NLC) in San Antonio. I would like to tell you about this organization, of which Frisco is a member.

NLC is the oldest and largest national organization representing municipal governments throughout the United States. NLC works in partnership with 49 state municipal leagues and represents more than 19,000 cities, villages and towns with 1,600 having direct membership in

the organization.

NLC advocates for your rights in Washington, D.C. by interacting with the federal government. NLC also provides programs and services to member cities. NLC, through the Leadership Institute, also provides leadership training for elected officials and continuously educates elected leaderships on critical issues impacting municipalities.

I attended this year's annual conference in San Antonio, which was very informative. Much of the conference focused on the financial health of our cities and new ways to

## CENTER

Continued from page 2

All FAC memberships are free of initiation fees and long-term contracts. Included in the membership price is access to all of the free, group fitness classes offered at the Frisco Athletic Center. Currently there are about 60 classes offered each week. Personal training and some group fitness classes require an additional fee.

Free child care is also a part of your membership. The Fun Club operates from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday for children eight weeks to seven years of age. Reservations are required and can be made up to two days in advance by calling (972) 292-6600.

Beyond the membership perks, the state-of-the-art facility is designed to enhance any fitness level. The two-story fitness and aquatic center has a total of 100,000 square-feet of space. It houses a main fitness area nearly 22,000 square feet in size. Members have access to equipment for stretching, cardio exer-

cise, machine weights and free weights. Other features include two full-size gymnasiums, two racquet ball courts and two studios for aerobic and dance classes.

Splash year-round in the indoor aquatic center. The space features a children's play structure with slides, a warm water activity pool, a current channel with vortex, four lap lanes, and 'Big Blue,' our indoor water slide.

From the Memorial Day Holiday weekend through Labor Day, the outdoor aquatic center is open for fun in the sun. The water park design includes two water slides, a lazy river, a children's play structure with slides, and a lagoon pool.

Setting your 2010 fitness plan now is no sweat. Purchase a Frisco Athletic Center membership in person at 5828 Nancy Jane Ln. Non-Frisco residents can purchase any of the membership options, but pay a higher rate.

For more information about the facility and programs offered go online to [FriscoFun.org/fac](http://FriscoFun.org/fac). The Frisco Athletic Center is operated by the City of Frisco Parks and Recreation Department.

## MAYOR

Continued from page 1

voices at a regional level, which is really the basis for this article. I spoke previously about the local planning organizations, such as the Regional Transportation Council (RTC), but there are also some state and federal organizations we are involved in. I personally attend the U.S. Conference of Mayors meetings that take place as well as the Texas Municipal League

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continue to provide excellent city services while finding additional ways to reduce expenses on our taxpayers. I also attended a meeting with some of the youth delegates from all over the country, and I enjoyed listening to their concerns and challenges facing our nation's youth. Many of the issues they touched on revolve around financial education and the need for their fellow classmates to understand the importance of saving and being prepared for post-high school years, whether it involved college or entering the work-force. Also, many of the youth expressed frustration the schools they attend just gloss over the real-world applications of budgeting when you are on your own.

Additional workshops were presented on economic development, policies and programs, infrastructure, public finance, public safety, sustainability and leadership training. All in all, it was a very useful conference, and I look forward to continuing to find new ways to represent Frisco at all levels.

As I close out this article, I want to thank all the volunteers who made this year's Community Parade a huge success. If you missed the parade, I hope you will join us next year. We saw a huge turnout, given the great weather. Bob Warren, Retired Lt. Col. USAF Reserve and former Mayor, was our parade Grand Marshal. Nastia Liuken, U.S. Gold-Medal Olympian, also participated. Thanks to the Texas A&M "Fish" Drill Team, our celebrity float judges -- including Nastia, Jake Reed and Santa Claus -- all the Frisco schools and emcee Pam Harris of CBS 11. They all made this year's Community Parade such a memorable one. Special thanks go to the parade sponsors! Without their support, we could not do this every year and help support the Frisco ISD Education Foundation.

Regards,  
Mayor Maher Maso

## VISIT US ON THE WEB!

Looking for detailed information about a City of Frisco service or event? Check out [FriscoTexas.gov](http://FriscoTexas.gov), your complete guide to the city government. Look for the latest alerts and press releases on the home page, or sign up to receive City of Frisco news to your email address. To subscribe, go to the home page and click on 'E-News'.

Now you can watch the Frisco Television Network (FTVN) live, 24-hours a day -- including Frisco City Council meetings -- online. From the home page, click on the green 'Watch' icon on the right-side menu. You will automatically connect to the 'Video on Demand' page. You can also select live programming or city council meetings from the Video on Demand page. Live city council meetings air the first and third Tuesdays of the month beginning at approximately 6:30 p.m.

# Resolve to waste less water in 2010 by making the “smart” controller investment

Old-fashioned automatic sprinkler system timers, if not continually monitored and adjusted, can waste a lot of water. That wastes money. If your water bill is too high, a “smart” controller is a proven way to reduce outdoor water waste while maintaining, and even enhancing, the health and beauty of your landscape.

The return on investment for a “smart” controller depends on two things:

- How you typically operate your sprinkler system timer, and

- Which smart controller technology you decide to install

“Smart” controllers work by monitoring actual on-site conditions and automatically adjusting the watering schedule on an ongoing basis to provide the right amount of water for each part of your landscape. You could see a savings within your first 1-2 years. This is especially true if your old-fashioned sprinkler timer operates on a pre-set schedule, watering upwards of 2-3 times per week regardless of rainfall and seasonal

modifications.

If you turn on your sprinkler system timer manually, watering only as necessary, a “smart” controller investment may take a while longer to notice. Your ability to easily water and manage your landscape, which is also your investment, will not go unnoticed.

Whichever “smart” controller technology you decide to install is the second important factor. How “smart” controllers gather their weather data and the number of

sprinkler system zones you have contribute to your return on investment.

“Smart” controllers that require data signals from a network of weather stations normally charge a monthly or yearly subscription fee to cover the cost of servicing the transmitted data. “Smart” controllers that collect their weather data directly from an on-site weather monitor or soil moisture sensor do not have an ongoing charge. These devices do require routine checks to ensure

they are operating and, if necessary, working batteries. After a few years, an on-site monitor or soil moisture sensor may need to be replaced.

To learn more about smart controllers, please visit our website at [www.friscotexas.gov/water](http://www.friscotexas.gov/water). Take advantage of our rebate for up to \$100 on qualifying smart controllers when you retrofit your traditional sprinkler timer. New residential sprinkler system installations after July 2007 already include smart controller technology.

## Green your holidays

Boxes, bags and wrapping – oh, my. Remember these easy steps to maximize your recycling efforts this holiday season.

- Recycle your wrapping paper, packing tissue paper and cardboard boxes. You don’t even have to remove the tape.
- Keep and reuse gift bags for future holidays and celebrations.
- Bring your Styrofoam packaging,

bagged Styrofoam peanuts, and plastic bags for recycling to the Environmental Collection Center, located at 6616 Walnut St., on Wednesdays 2 to 5 p.m. and Saturdays 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

- Make space for new gifts by donating used items to local charities where they will make someone else holiday a little brighter.

## A ‘BIG’ HELP



Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Collin County lent a helping hand in October while cleaning their one-mile stretch of Frisco roads as part of the Adopt-A-Street program. To learn more about the Adopt-a-Street program go online to [FriscoTexas.gov/recycle](http://FriscoTexas.gov/recycle). Choose ‘Adopt-a-Street’ from the left-hand menu.

## CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR’S HOLIDAY HOURS

For the Christmas holiday the City of Frisco’s administrative offices will be closed on Thursday, December 24 and Friday, December 25. City offices will also be closed for New Year’s Day on Friday, January 1.

Look for a complete listing of holiday hours for specific city facilities online at [FriscoTexas.gov](http://FriscoTexas.gov) by December 15.

Regular trash and recycling services will be delayed for one day on Friday, December 25 and Friday, January 1. If your service falls on Christmas Day or

New Year’s Day, then your regular collection will move to the following Saturday, December 26/January 2.

The Environmental Collection Center will be closed on both December 25 and January 1, but will be open on December 26 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. for your recycling and household chemical disposal convenience.

First Saturday of the month shredding services will not be available in January they will recommence in February.

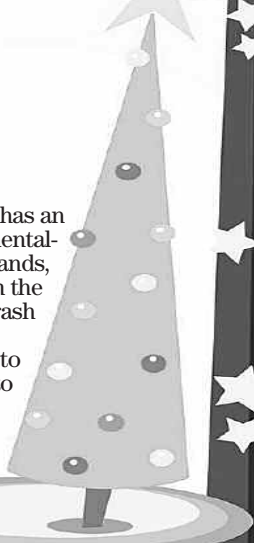
## CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

Once the Christmas tree comes down, the City of Frisco has an easy program set up to help you dispose of it in an environmentally friendly manner. All you need to do is make sure all stands, wiring, ornaments, lights and tinsel have been removed from the tree. Then place it out at least three feet away from your trash and recycling carts on your normal service day.

All the collected trees will be composted and will not go to the landfill. Trees larger than five feet must be cut down into sections less than 5 feet.

Because of the chemical compound in flocking material, flocked trees cannot be accepted in this program. Flocked trees can be collected by CWD for a \$10 charge.

Call 972-392-9300 to request pick up from CWD.





# Monthly Road Project Update

The City of Frisco Engineering Services Department has the most current information on road projects available online. Go to **[www.friscotexas.gov/projectupdate](http://www.friscotexas.gov/projectupdate)**.

## 1 City Hall Parking Garage

Scope: Construction of a five-story parking structure to accommodate roughly 578 cars. Design was completed in August 2009. Bids were opened in September 2009. Construction should begin in late 2009. PRE-CONSTRUCTION

**2 Frisco Square Boulevard  
Railroad Crossing**

Scope: Construction of Frisco Square Blvd. across the railroad tracks from Cook Street to West Main Street. Project including railroad signals and crossing gates began in September 2008. BNSF Railroad crews completed the railroad crossing in late July. The project has been completed and final accepted. It has been opened to traffic. UNDER CONSTRUCTION

**3 Eldorado Parkway (Dallas North Tollway (DNT) – Preston Road) w/ overpass**

Scope: Construction of three northern lanes and a third lane on the south side for a six-lane, divided roadway with median and an overpass at the BNSF Railroad. Tiseo Paving began construction in July 2009. Moisture conditioning of the subgrade and constructing the bridge over the BNSF railroad tracks is currently underway. Estimated completion of construction is early 2011.

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

**4 FM 2934/Eldorado Parkway  
(DNT - FM 423)**

Scope: Replace existing two-lane asphalt roadway with a six-lane concrete roadway with median. TxDOT opened bids in February 2008. Construction began September 2008. Traffic was switched to the new 6-lane road in September. Contractor is currently completing the work at the intersection of Legacy and Teel. Construction is expected to be completed by the end of 2009.

**UNDER CONSTRUCTION**

## 5 FM 3537/Main Improvements

**(Custer Road – Preston Road)**

Scope: Replace existing two-lane asphalt roadway with a six-lane concrete roadway with median. This project will be bid and constructed by TxDOT. TxDOT's engineer is currently revising plans. The project is anticipated to begin ROW acquisition in early 2010, and utility adjustments will begin after completion of ROW acquisition. Design is estimated to be completed and bid in summer 2010. Anticipated construction time is 24 months. DESIGN

### 6 FM 423 Improvements (Stewart Creek – Eldorado Parkway) Middle Section

Scope: Replace existing two-lane asphalt roadway with a six-lane concrete roadway with median. TxDOT bid this project on August 11, 2009. Austin Bridge and Road was low bidder. Construction will begin in early 2010 and is estimated to require 24 months to complete. PRE-CONSTRUCTION

## 7 FM 423 Improvements (Eldorado Parkway - US 380) North Section

**Scope:** Replace existing two-lane asphalt roadway with six-lane concrete roadway with median, including streetlights and traffic signals. Dannenbaum has submitted 95 percent plans for review by TxDOT and city staff. TxDOT will open bids for this project in summer 2010 or upon completion of ROW acquisition and utility relocation. Construction is estimated to require 24 months to complete.

**8 Dogwood Street & Meadow Lane  
(Main Street – McKinney Road)**

Scope: Reconstruct Meadow Lane & Dogwood Street with concrete surface and curb and gutter, Construction began in January 2009. Construction was completed in August 2009. COMPLETED

**9 FM 2478/Custer Road  
(Stonebridge - US 380)**

Scope: Widen existing two-

lane asphalt roadway to six-lane concrete divided roadway. TxDOT opened bids on January 13, 2009. Low bidder was Mario Sinacola and Sons Excavating. Contractor is currently constructing the Wilson Creek Bridge for the future north bound lanes. Construction began in August 2009 and is estimated to take 26 months to complete.

**10 Stonebrook Parkway (DNT to Preston Road)**

Scope: Install 36 inch waterline, reconstruct westbound lanes to widen roadway to six lanes. Design is approximately 90 percent complete. Design is expected to be completed in early 2010. Construction is estimated to take 14 months to complete. DESIGN

**11 SH 289/Preston Road (Main Street - US 380)**

Scope: Construct a six-lane divided roadway to replace existing two-lane asphalt roadway. TxDOT opened bids in October 2008. Franchise utilities are currently relocating utilities. Mario Sinacola and Sons began construction began in August 2009. The contractor is constructing the bridges at Panther Creek and Parvin Branch. Estimated date for construction to be completed is in late 2011. PRE-CONSTRUCTION

**12 Stonebrook Parkway (Legacy Drive – Longhorn Trail)**

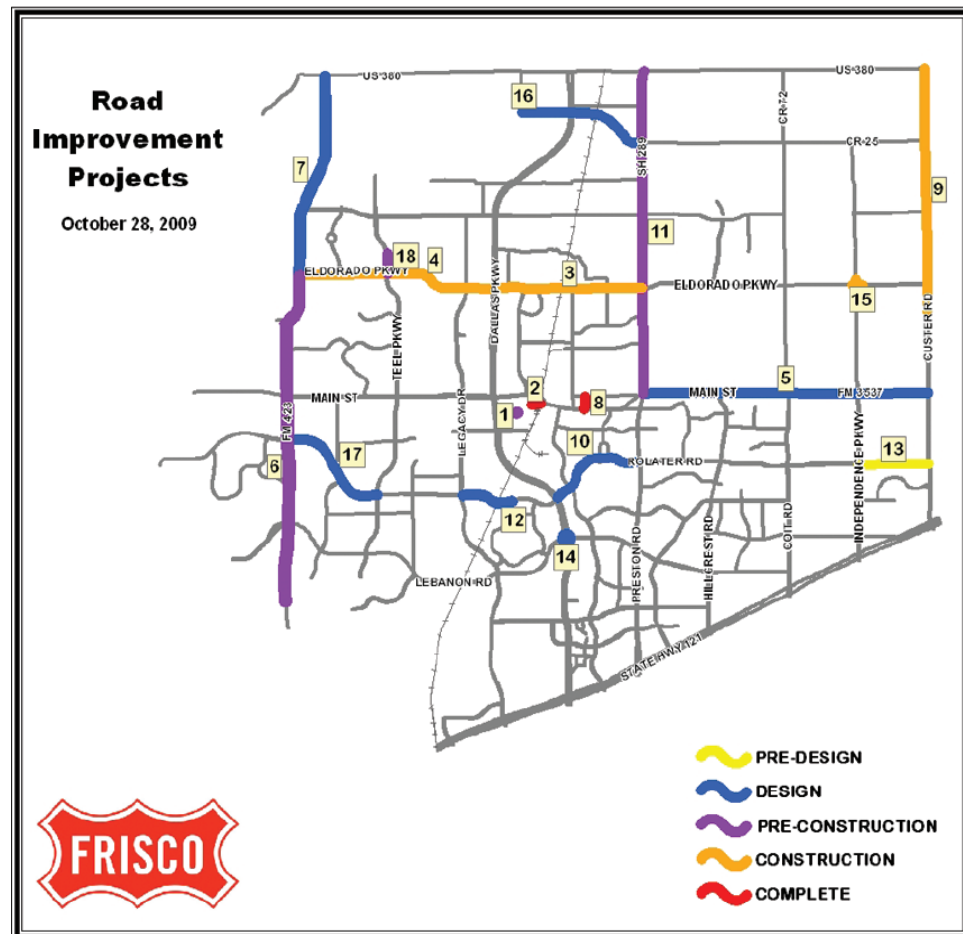
Scope: Construct four-lane roadway with an underpass at the BNSF RR, a railroad shoofly and a bridge at Stewart Creek. Project includes federal wetland, permits, & environmental coordination with Corps of Engineers. Design is 95 percent complete. Estimated start of construction is summer 2010. DESIGN

**13 Rolater Drive (Independence Parkway – Custer Road)**

Scope: Construct two east bound lanes to provide four-lane roadway including bridge over Rowlett Creek. Design is 80 per-

## Road Improvement Projects

October 28, 2009



cent complete.. Construction expected to begin in early 2010 and will take 10 months to complete. PRE-DESIGN

### 14 Lebanon Road & DNT Intersection Improvements

Scope: Construction of additional lanes of traffic for Lebanon to accommodate the NTTA bridge widening. This project will increase the lanes on the EB and WB approaches to the tollway. Design by Kimley-Horn is approximately 95 percent complete. Construction is expected to begin in 2010 and take seven months to complete. DESIGN

### 15 Eldorado/ Independence Parkway Intersection Improvements

The project includes permanent traffic signals at Eldorado and Independence; a median opening for Fire Station No. 5, a westbound to northbound right

turn lane on Eldorado to Independence, and two additional lanes to connect existing portions of pavement for eastbound Eldorado traffic. Council awarded construction contract in March 2009. Concrete paving was completed in July. Contractor is working on clean up items.

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

**16 Rockhill (Virginia Parkway)  
(CR26 – Preston Road)**

Scope: Construct six-lane roadway including a bridge over BNSF Railroad from County Road 26 to Preston Road. Design, by Kinley-Horn, is 60 percent complete and expected to be completed in fall of 2010. Construction will begin when funding for the project is available. DESIGN

**17 Stonebrook Parkway (FM 423 to  
4th Army Memorial)**

Scope: Construct a four-lane roadway between FM 423 and Teel and widen from two-lanes to four-lanes from Teel to 4th Army Memorial Drive. Design is being done by Huitt Zollars. Design is 60 percent complete and expected to be completed in early 2010. Construction should be completed by late 2010. DESIGN

**18 Teel Parkway (Eldorado Parkway to Freestone)**

Scope: Construct the two northbound lanes to complete the four-lane roadway. Project includes lighting, irrigation and landscaping from Eldorado to Panther Creek Parkway. Bids were opened on September 17, 2009 with Mario Sinicola and Sons Excavating being the low bidder. Construction should begin in November 2009 and be completed in six months. PRE-CONSTRUCTION



# Out & About in Frisco

Here are some of the sights you may have missed during recent city events:

**Trick-or-Treat at Frisco Fire Safety Town** and the **Frisco Community Parade**.

**A real scream... The third annual Fall Festival at Frisco Fire Safety Town** on October 23 was so much fun it was scary for thousands of children and their parents. Children filled their goody bags by trick-or-treating door-to-door at FFST's miniature buildings. Superheroes and princesses were the favorite choices to dress up as – along with traditional Halloween costumes like pirates, cowboys – even a few little firefighters.

**Proud to be an American... The Frisco Community Parade** marched down Main Street on November 14, honoring American troops past and present. Veteran and former Frisco Mayor Bob Warren served as Grand Marshal. Mayor Warren was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Army Air Corps in November 1943, and served as an airborne troop carrier pilot in Europe until World War II ended.

The parade featured several Frisco ISD school groups and community organizations showing their Frisco pride. The Mayor's Award went to the Frisco ISD Transportation Department. The entry was a school bus with a military makeover. Christie Elementary won for best Elementary School Award and the Grand Marshal's Award went to School of Rock for their Veteran's Stadium float.





# HOMETOWN HAPPENINGS

## December 1

- City Council Meeting, Council Chambers, 6101 Frisco Square Blvd., 5:30 p.m.
- Downtown Advisory Board Meeting, 5th Floor Conference Room, 12 p.m.

## December 7

- Public Art Board, 6101 Frisco Square Blvd., 6:30 p.m.
- Urban Forestry Board, 6726 Walnut St., 6:30 p.m.

## December 8

- Planning and Zoning (P&Z) Meeting, Council Chambers, 6101 Frisco Square Blvd., 5:30 p.m.

## December 9

- Housing Trust Fund Board, Council Chambers, 6:30 p.m.
- Convention Visitors Bureau (CVB), TBD, 12 p.m.

## December 10

- Parks Board Meeting, Council Chambers, 6101 Frisco Square Blvd., 6:30 p.m.

## December 15

- City Council Meeting, Council Chambers, 6101 Frisco Square Blvd., 5:30 p.m.

## December 17

- Arts of Collin County (ACC), City of Allen, 4 p.m.
- CDC Meeting---6101 Frisco Square Blvd., 6:30 p.m.

## December 22

- Planning and Zoning (P&Z) Meeting, Council Chambers, 6101 Frisco Square Blvd., 5:30 p.m.
- North Texas Municipal Water District Meeting, 505 East Brown St., Wylie TX 4:00 p.m.

# Frisco Police Special Operations Unit conducts real-life training



The Frisco Police Department's Special Operation's Unit (SOU) joined with seven other area law enforcement agencies to participate the North Region SWAT Exercise at Dr Pepper Ballpark on October 14. Hundreds of officers were involved in the emergency response training set up like a mock hostage rescue situation.

Verbal threats and terrified screams echoing in response pierced the air at Frisco's Dr Pepper Ballpark. In a matter of seconds, the atmosphere of family fun was fogged over with danger, literally and figuratively. While only a pretend scenario, the situation was designed to play out as a real-life terror incident to push the responding officers to their limits.

On October 14 the Frisco Police Department's Special Operations Unit participated in the North Region SWAT Exercise at Dr Pepper Ballpark. The unique exercise—funded by the Department of Homeland Security—included SWAT teams from seven surrounding agencies operating together with Frisco. The training scenario: a mock hostage rescue situation as a result of a simulated botched bank robbery.

"Talk about an intense situation," said Ray Lieutenant Jewett, the SOU team's coordinator. "You put that many bad guys with guns and hostages in a facility that size and you'll push the responding officers to their limits."

The participating SWAT teams were told that as many as 10 heavily armed gunman were holding an unknown number of hostages inside the ballpark.

Over the course of the nine-hour training day, teams of officers took turns simulating the response to the threat that changed moment to moment. Police officers and volunteers acted out the roles of gunman and hostage in real time.

The hostages were truly immersed in the unsettling situation of being held against

their will with limitations to what they could say, do, hear or see. Officers moved from the slow pace of negotiations to the fast rhythm of a full-force response. Snipers perched in the nearby Embassy Suites hotel watching and waiting for the time they had to make a precision shot.

In addition to Frisco Police, the law enforcement agencies represented in the training exercise were Allen Police Department, Carrollton Police Department, Collin County Sheriff's Office, Denton County Sheriff's Office, Lewisville Police Department, McKinney Police Department and Plano Police Department.

"It's not often that agencies get to work and train with one another," said Frisco police spokesperson Sergeant Adam Henderson. "To be able to do so at a venue such as a minor league baseball stadium and with actors playing real-life bad guys and victims adds the realism that makes this as close to the real thing as possible."

The group SWAT exercise was a part of a week-long series for the Frisco Police Department's Special Operations Unit (SOU). The training exercises were aimed at ensuring the highest level of readiness for the unit and the public they serve.

The SOU team of officers, also referred to as the "SWAT team" by the public, is the department's go-to unit for handling emergency situations that require special weapons, tactics, and training that patrol officers do not possess.

SOU team members are experienced police officers who are specially selected for

their abilities and train regularly for a variety of situations that they may encounter. Their normal training occurs every two weeks, but Lieutenant Jewett decided that a fast-paced, high intensity series of training exercises lasting five days would sharpen the team's readiness and prepare them for anything the criminals wish to throw at them.

Lieutenant Jewett and other team leaders developed both classroom instruction and a variety of simulated real-life scenarios for the week of training that was aimed pushing team members to their limits. The training included all aspects of the job and incorporated every single team member, including the 10 officers on the entry team, two snipers, two tactical paramedics, and a team of negotiators.

The police department considers the week-long training a success and plans on conducting similar training each year. Lieutenant Jewett noted that this type of cost-effective training helps to prepare the Special Operations Unit for situations that they may be called upon to respond to and is confident in their abilities.

"The public knows we have a highly capable police department with some of the best officers in north Texas," said Sgt. Henderson. "But we're not happy with just being 'capable,' we want to be the best police department that Frisco residents demand." For more information about the Frisco Police Department, go online to [FriscoTexas.gov/police](http://FriscoTexas.gov/police).



# Deck the Halls at this year's Merry Main Street

Get ready to catch the holiday spirit because the City of Frisco is bringing you the biggest Merry Main Street celebration yet. The festivities begin at 5 p.m. and continue until 9 p.m. The 19th annual Merry Main Street happens December 5 at the George A. Purefoy Municipal Center and Simpson Plaza at City Hall, located at 6101 Frisco Square Blvd.

The extended hours will allow more Frisco Elementary School choirs to perform. The students will sing from three stages located around the plaza filling the air with favorite carols and fun holiday songs.

Another important tradition of Merry Main Street is the Tree Lighting Ceremony. The ceremony will begin at approximately 6:00 p.m.

Santa's made his list and checked twice so he'll be ready to greet all the 'nice' children of Frisco. The man in red will spend the night taking pictures with girls and boys and listening to

their wish lists. You can count on favorite holiday friends like Rudolph and Frosty to join the fun, too.

The City of Frisco is proud to partner with Frisco Square to bring you the largest choreographed holiday lights and music display in Texas. Christmas in the Square lights and music will run nightly Friday, November 27 to January 3.

The City of Frisco's Holiday Happenings Web page has the complete list of city-sponsored activities. Go online to **FriscoMerryMainStreet.com** – or to **friscotexas.gov** and look for the link called '2008 Holiday Happenings'.

Be sure to check out all the holiday events sponsored by the City of Frisco Parks and Recreation Department. Ticket sales and registration for all events are on sale now. Don't miss out on all the fun! For more information, please contact Kari FitzPatrick at [KFitzPatrick@FriscoTexas.gov](mailto:KFitzPatrick@FriscoTexas.gov).

## Breakfast with Santa and Friends

**Saturday, December 5**  
**Time: 8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.**  
**and 10:30 a.m. - noon.**

Location: Frisco Senior Center, 6670 Moore St.

Fee: \$12 per person; children 2 & younger free

You are cordially invited to enjoy an amazing breakfast with Santa, Frosty and Rudolph. Kids will have the opportunity to participate in holiday activities and visit with Santa about their Christmas wish list. Children must attend with one parent or responsible adult. Don't forget to bring your cameras!

## Santa Skate

**Saturday, December 12**  
**Time: 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.**

Location: Dr Pepper Arena, 2601 Avenue of the Stars

Fee: \$10 per person (both skater and non-skater tickets are available).

Bring the family and enjoy and



Santa from 5-6 p.m. The proceeds from the photos will benefit Frisco Family Services.

## Frosty 5K and Merry Mile

**Saturday, December 12**  
**City Hall Plaza, 6101 Frisco Square Blvd.**

Race Time: Merry Mile - 8:00 a.m.; Frosty 5K - approximately 8:30 a.m.

Pre-registration:

Merry Mile - \$16 per person

Frosty 5K - \$20 per person or

afternoon of family fun and ice skating with Jolly Ole' Saint Nick and friends! In addition, the Texas Tornado Hockey Club will offer photos with

\$16 per person (team of five or more persons)

Race Day Registration:

Merry Mile - \$20 per person

Frosty 5K - \$30 per person

Early Packet Pick-up:

December 10 & 11 at the Frisco Athletic Center from 8 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Calling all jolly souls to join us for the 4th Annual Frosty 5K and Merry Mile. Warm up this holiday season with your friends and family and come enjoy the spirit of this event.



## Holiday Lights at Frisco Fire Safety Town



Frisco Fire Safety Town will have its 3rd annual Holiday Lights Celebration at Frisco Fire Safety Town on weekend evenings from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. starting the weekend of December 11 - 13 and continue the following weekend from December 18 - 22.

Activities vary from night-to-night, but the

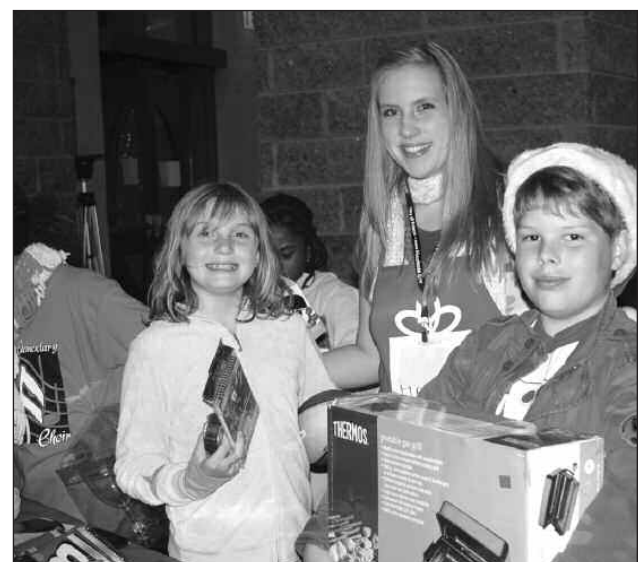
Frisco Fire Clowns will be spreading safety and holiday cheer each night of the event.

Bring friends and family to walk through the outdoor town and see each of the miniature buildings decorated for the holiday season. The event is free to the public. Visit [www.friscofire.com](http://www.friscofire.com) for more information.

## Kid's Holiday Store at Merry Main Street



Still looking for presents? One of the many Merry Main Street activities children enjoy is the Kid's Holiday Store. The Kid's Holiday Store provides an opportunity for children 12 and younger to find something special for mom, dad, brothers and sisters.



Each child is paired with a personal shopper to find gifts for parents and siblings. After gifts are selected, volunteers gift wrap the items. They are ready to go underneath the tree. Gifts are affordable. Everything in the store is priced at \$5 or less.



2010  
**WINTER  
GAMES  
TEXAS**  
TEXAS AMATEUR ATHLETIC FEDERATION

**Registration  
now open for  
5th anniversary  
of Winter  
Games of Texas**



The Winter Games of Texas, the largest multi-sport event in North Texas, returns to Frisco January 15-17, 2010 to celebrate its 5th Anniversary. More than a dozen different sports including gymnastics, figure skating, swimming, flag football, basketball, soccer and more will take place in venues around Frisco.

The games were created as a companion to the Summer Games of Texas in partnership with the Texas Amateur Athletic Federation, the Frisco Convention & Visitors Bureau and Frisco Parks & Recreation Department. Go online now at [www.taaf.com](http://www.taaf.com) to sign up for an individual or team sport and you compete to win a gold, bronze or silver medal! For more information contact 972-292-5250.



## 14th Annual Daddy Daughter Dance

This is getting curious and curiouser!  
Join Alice, the Mad Hatter, Tweedledee and Tweedledum as we wander down the rabbits hole for an evening of enchantment with our **Alice in Wonderland** theme.

**Saturday, February 6, 2010**

Frisco Conference Center  
(7600 John Q. Hammons Drive)

**Tickets: \$12 per person**

### Dance Times

2 pm - 3:30 p.m.: Ages 4-5

4 pm - 5:30 p.m.: Ages 6-7

6 pm - 7:30 p.m.: Ages 8-9

8 pm - 9:30 p.m.: Ages 10-12

Light refreshments will be served  
Music provided by The Motivator DJ

**Tickets will go on sale  
Saturday, January 9 at 8 a.m.**

Tickets may be purchased  
online at [FriscoFun.org](http://FriscoFun.org) or at the  
Frisco Athletic Center

Visit **FriscoFun.org** for complete  
dance and ticket  
information.

*Don't be late  
for this very  
important  
date!*

